



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate

Phrasal Verbs

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## **Banta and his Fiat by K S Sandhu**

Banta owns a small farm near Mussoorie, in the hills of India. Every week, he drives his old Fiat car to the town to sell vegetables and pick up supplies. The car is very old, but Banta keeps it in good condition.

One sunny morning, Banta set off early for Mussoorie. He felt happy because the weather was nice. He turned on the radio and sang along with an old song. Suddenly, the engine made a strange noise and then cut out completely. The car broke down on the side of the road. Banta tried to start it again, but nothing happened.

He got out and looked at the engine, but he didn't understand the problem. He was hungry and a little tired. Luckily, he saw a small roadside shop not far away. He walked over and went in.

Inside, a friendly lady stood behind the counter. "Good morning," Banta said. "Do you have any sandwiches?"

The lady smiled but shook her head. "Sorry, sir, we've run out of sandwiches. We sold the last one ten minutes ago."

Banta sighed. "Never mind. Do you have tea?"

"Yes, of course," she said. She made him a hot cup of tea. While he drank it, Banta asked, "Is there a garage nearby? My car has broken down."

The lady thought for a moment. "Yes, there's one about two kilometres away. The mechanic is Mr Singh. He's very good. He can pick up your car if you call him."

Banta thanked her and got out his phone. He looked up the number and called Mr Singh. "Hello, my car broke down on the Mussoorie road. Can you help?"

Mr Singh answered kindly, "No problem. I'll come over right now. Don't worry."

While he waited, Banta sat outside the shop. A man on a motorcycle pulled up and asked if he needed help. Banta explained the situation. The man said, "I can give you a lift to the garage if you want."

But Banta decided to wait for Mr Singh. Soon, the mechanic arrived in his truck. He looked over the car quickly. "It's the battery," he said. "I can fix it, but I need to take it to my garage."

Together, they pushed the Fiat a little, and then Mr Singh towed it with his truck. At the garage, Mr Singh worked fast. He put in a new part, and the car started again.

Banta was very happy. "Thank you so much," he said. "How much do I owe you?"

Mr Singh smiled. "Not much. Just pay for the part. And next time, bring some fresh vegetables from your farm!"

Banta laughed. "I will! I'll bring you tomatoes and potatoes."

On the way home, Banta thought about the day. His old car had let him down, but kind people had helped him out. He turned up the radio again and smiled. Life in the hills was sometimes difficult, but it was never boring.

# 2

## Phrasal verbs: what they mean

### A The most common verbs

Here are the most common verbs that form part of phrasal verbs:

break bring call come cut get give go keep knock  
look make pass pick pull put run set take turn

Units 6–12 deal with a selection of these verbs which form a large number of useful, everyday phrasal verbs.

### B Meanings

The basic meanings of the verbs in A refer to concrete actions (e.g. *break* means separate into pieces), but when they are part of phrasal verbs, they often have abstract meanings too. Sometimes the concrete meaning can help you guess the abstract meaning, for example, you can **look back** to wave goodbye to someone as you leave in a car (concrete meaning – look behind you), or you can **look back** on your past life (abstract meaning – remember or recall).

verb	concrete meaning	abstract meaning
<b>give</b>	I <b>gave</b> my essay <b>in</b> yesterday. [handed it to the teacher]	Her parents finally <b>gave in</b> and let her go to the party. [agreed to something they had refused before]
<b>get</b>	She <b>got on</b> the bus. [entered]	Jim and Mary don't <b>get on</b> . [don't like each other and are not friendly to each other]
<b>come</b>	Would you like to <b>come round</b> this evening? [come to my home]	He was unconscious for three hours but <b>came round</b> in hospital. [became conscious again]

### C Synonyms of phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb can often be replaced by a single verb with more or less the same meaning. The single-verb synonyms are often, but not always, more formal (see Unit 5, section C).

phrasal verb	single-verb synonym
put off	postpone
take off	remove
turn up	arrive

less formal	more formal
Let's <b>put off</b> the meeting until Friday.	Let's <b>postpone</b> the meeting until Friday.
Please <b>take off</b> your shoes when you enter the temple.	Please <b>remove</b> your shoes when you enter the temple.
Everyone <b>turned up</b> on time for the meeting.	Everyone <b>arrived</b> on time for the meeting.

**TIP**

If you know a single-verb synonym of a phrasal verb, write it in your vocabulary notebook, and note whether or not the phrasal verb is more informal.

## Exercises

### 2.1 Complete these sentences using verbs from the list in A opposite.

- 1 The car b..... down on the way to the airport.
- 2 The heavy snow blocked the roads and c..... the farm off completely.
- 3 It took him a long time to g..... over his illness.
- 4 It isn't easy to learn German but you must k..... on trying.
- 5 If you'd like a lift to the station tomorrow, I can p..... you up at 9 a.m.
- 6 This is a really stupid programme. Please t..... the TV off.

### 2.2 In which of the sentences in exercise 2.1 above could you put the particle in a different position?

### 2.3 Decide whether the phrasal verbs in these sentences are concrete or abstract in meaning, by writing C for concrete or A for abstract in the brackets.

EXAMPLE He looked up (C) and saw a hot-air balloon in the sky.

- 1 I would never go against ( ) my parents' wishes.
- 2 Shall I cut out ( ) this ad for the new CD player? We might want to buy one.
- 3 About five miles into our journey the engine cut out ( ) and we broke down ( ) completely. It was over an hour before the rescue service turned up ( ).
- 4 Do we need to dress up ( ) tonight or is it informal?
- 5 I shall never really appreciate what my grandparents went through ( ) during the war.

### 2.4 Replace the underlined verbs in these sentences with phrasal verbs made using the verbs and particles from the boxes below. If necessary, use the Mini dictionary at the end of this book.



make chase brush leave fall up for out aside out

- 1 They just ignored my complaints; it made me very angry.
- 2 I believed his story about having lost all his money. How stupid I was!
- 3 I couldn't understand what he was saying with all the noise.
- 4 Could you pursue Janet's report? She promised it last week but I haven't seen it yet.
- 5 If you are phoning from outside the country, omit the first zero in the city code.

### 2.5 Use more formal equivalents from the box instead of the phrasal verbs in these sentences. Write the formal verbs in the correct form.

decline issue organise cancel escape

- 1 The government have put out a statement condemning the recent protests.
- 2 The union accepted the new pay deal and called off the strike.
- 3 The number of people not owning a TV set nowadays has gone down dramatically.
- 4 There was a disturbance in Blackmoor Prison yesterday and three prisoners got away.
- 5 Could you see to lunch for our visitors? There will be four of them.

## Answers

- 2.1** 1 broke 2 cut 3 get 4 keep 5 pick 6 turn
- 2.2** The particle could be put in a different position in sentences 2 and 6:  
2 The heavy snow blocked the roads and **cut off** the farm completely.  
6 This is a really stupid programme. Please **turn off** the TV.
- 2.3** 1 Abstract *Go against* here means oppose or defy.  
2 Concrete *Cut out* here means use scissors to remove the ad from the paper or magazine.  
3 Abstract *Cut out* here means stopped running.  
Abstract *Broke down* here means stopped working altogether.  
Abstract *Turned up* here means arrived.  
4 Concrete *Dress up* here means dress in formal clothes or your best clothes.  
5 Abstract *Went through* here means experienced
- 2.4** 1 They just **brushed aside** my complaints; it made me very angry. *Or* They just **brushed** my complaints **aside**.  
2 I **fell for** his story about having lost all his money. How stupid I was!  
3 I couldn't **make out** what he was saying with all the noise.  
4 Could you **chase up** Janet's report? She promised it last week but I haven't seen it yet.  
*Or* Could you **chase** Janet's report **up**?  
5 If you are phoning from outside the country, **leave out** the first zero in the city code.  
*Or* ... **leave** the first zero in the city code **out**.
- 2.5** 1 The government have issued a statement condemning the recent protests.  
2 The union accepted the new pay deal and cancelled the strike.  
3 The number of people not owning a TV set nowadays has declined dramatically.  
4 There was a disturbance in Blackmoor Prison yesterday and three prisoners escaped.  
5 Could you organise lunch for our visitors? There will be four of them.